

## How Can You Prevent FOG (Fats, Oils and Grease) Damage?

Fat, oil and grease in sewer pipes, referred to as FOG, create pollution problems in many communities. FOG enters sewer pipes through restaurant, residential and commercial sink drains. Once in the sewer, FOG sticks to the pipe and thickens. FOG can build up and eventually block the entire pipe. Blockages in sewer pipes can send sewage backward – out of manholes into streets and rivers, or up floor drains in homes. These sewage overflows pollute the environment.

### Impact of FOG

Preventing sewer backups from FOG blockages save residents money and protects the environment. When sewer pipes on private property back up, the homeowner is responsible for the cleanup. For example, if a resident regularly pours grease down a drain, it will eventually cool, harden and form a blockage in the sewer pipe. Sewage then backs up through floor drains and toilets at the lowest point in the house. A plumber will have to be hired to clean the sewer and possibly repair plumbing inside the home. Cleanup costs can be expensive.

Residents can help control the problem by properly disposing of fat, oil and grease. Everyone is part of the solution.

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## CITY OF ARCHDALE

### Fats, Oils, and Grease

Cleaning FOG build-up from sewers increases maintenance costs for everyone in the sewer system. FOG can create sewer overflows. Keep our environment clean and avoid unnecessary maintenance costs by keeping fat, oil and grease out of our sewers.

Cooking grease coats pipelines similar to the way the fatty foods clog human arteries. The grease clings to the inside of the pipelines, eventually causing complete blockage.



## How you can prevent FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease) Damage.



DON'T WASH FATS, OILS AND GREASE  
DOWN THE DRAIN

### Overview

When grease is warm and in a liquid form, it may not appear harmful. But as the liquid cools, it congeals and forms sediment on the interior of pipes and treatment equipment.

When poured down a sink drain or toilet, fat, oil and grease can stick to the walls of the drainage pipes that carry the wastewater. This hardened grease can block pipes and prevent the flow of wastewater, which can cause a very unpleasant sewer overflow. This wastewater could back up inside or outside of your property, something you definitely want to avoid.

Build up of fat, oil and grease is the number one cause of public and private sewage spills and is easily preventable.

### An Alternate Approach

Many people are unaware that pouring hot water and detergent down the drain only breaks up grease temporarily causing it to solidify further down the line.

Keep your pipes running free.

- Cool down your cooking oil, grease and fat and pour them into a can—not down the drain. Trash



CAN THE GREASE.

the can, not your pipes.

- Wipe out pots and pans with a paper towel before doing the dishes— you will use less soap and decrease clogs.
- Keep your drains clean by pouring 1/2 cup baking soda down the drain followed by 1/2 cup vinegar. Wait 10 to 15 minutes and then rinse with hot water.

Share these tips with your family, friends and neighbors

*This is an example of sanitary sewer overflow that could be caused by an oil and grease blockage.*

